



NEW JERSEY - ALBANIA

2001-2013



President: Bujar Nishani
 Prime Min.: Sali Berisha
 MoD: Arben Imami
 Amb. to US: Aleksander Sallabanda
 US Amb: Alexander Arvizu
 TAG: BG Michael L. Cuniff

NATO member: Yes (2009)

EU member: No

ISAF Pax: 199 (1/1/13)

2012 SPP Engagements: 5

Population: 3.0M (2012 est.)
 Area: slightly smaller than Maryland
 Military Expend.: 1.6% GDP (2010 est.)



Photo by U.S. Air Force

Overview

The partnership was established in 1993. The current M2M focus places emphasis on OCO support, NCO Development, Military Medical pre/post deployment medical care, Military Police mentoring, military support to civil authority and disaster response.

Partnership History

- NATO accession in 2009
- 2010 Visa Liberalization allowed Albanians to travel throughout the EU
- The latter part of 2010, conscription ended changing the nature of the AAF, with ramifications for training and development of the Force
- Albania to get EU candidate status provided it delivers key reforms in the judiciary, public administration and the functioning of parliament.
- Political instability- supporters of the Prime Minister Sali Berisha and opposition leader Edi Rama (Mayor of Tirana) have faced off in the past
- U.S. Ambassador to Albania warns of rise in nationalist rhetoric during elections
- More Parliamentary elections set for June 23, 2013
- Unexploded Ordnance program is a huge success (13 tons annually) and remains a priority for the US Embassy

Partnership Focus

Over 100 NJNG to AAF events have been conducted since the partnership began with an emphasis in NCO /Officer Corps Development, Logistics, Medical and MP. The focus for 2013-2015 is a continued expansion of the NCO / Officer Corps professionalism and the expansion of Response to Natural and Man-made Disasters, and IG development. The partnership has assisted in the Preparation of multiple AAF teams for deployment, to include: OMLT/MAT 1-4, MP, medical and EAGLE teams.

Focus of Military-to-Military events:

- Develop SPP to play larger role in ODC's programs
- Expand to regional events – Adriatic 5 country exercises
- Focus NJ units inclusion as partner on ODT opportunities

2013 Planned Events:

- Human Resource Development
- Operational Logistics Capabilities
- Civil Support Team Capabilities
- Disaster Response planning and Capabilities
- Officer Commissioning Program
- Senior Leader Interagency Engagements
- Pre-Deployment Capabilities
- Material Management
- Military Police Deployed Operations
- Wild Land Fire Management



Photo by Capt. Elizabeth Culbertson



"New Jersey's state partnership with Albania has given our National Guard Airmen and Soldiers a chance to share military and civilian skills, and to interact with professionals who are truly making a difference in their country and the region." - MG Glenn Rieth, former Adjutant General, New Jersey National Guard

